



Vision

January 2012

Pastor Dave's Corner

The speculations have already begun. The "experts" are already telling us what we can expect in 2012. The economy will continue to be slow. Gas prices will hit record highs. Home foreclosures will increase. The job market will continue to be tight. Wow, with those kinds of predictions it's no wonder people are discouraged. Do we have to live under a cloud of discouragement? The answer is a resounding NO!

Hebrews 10:19-25 gives us a different way to approach the future. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly

to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

As followers of Jesus Christ our hope is not political or economic systems. Our hope is in Jesus. Through Jesus we have access to the Living God. We can come boldly into his presence without fear. We are invited to bring all of our cares and concerns to him and let him act on our behalf. In uncertain times our focus should not be on the uncertainty but on the one in whom we can trust.

Jesus commanded us not to waste our energy worrying about the future. So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all



Keeping Our Focus for a New Year

these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. [Matthew 6:31-34 (NIV)] Jesus tells us that instead of worrying about tomorrow we need to take a more positive approach. Hebrews outlines for us some very practical steps we can take to face the new year.

Let us draw near to God. The most important thing we can do as we face the future is to grow in our faith. We are all at different places on the faith journey. But no matter

(Continued on page 12)

Inside this issue:

Bethel Worship	2
Youth Group News	3
Children's Ministry	4
Missions Page	5
Senior Adults	8
Cancellation Policy	9
Support Groups	10

Special points of interest:

- Notes from the Leadership Board
- Bethel Annual Meeting
- Discovery Class
- Cancellation Policy
- New DivorceCare Session Starting

Bethel Worship Notes

A “new thing” for a New Year

I am hopeful all of you will experience A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Having celebrated the Hope of Christmas together, what are some of our expectations and hopes for this coming year?

What “**new thing**” are you planning on accomplishing this New Year? Many of us have New Year resolutions; some are started, yet many are forgotten quickly as time progresses. So what “**new thing**” do you have planned for the New Year? Many of us need to continue in the process or seek to become healthier spiritually, physically, emotionally, mentally this New Year. What “**new thing**” will be done to accomplish this in your life? In addition to ourselves, what “**new thing**” is God calling us to do to help and serve those around us that need Him?

In Luke’s gospel, Luke speaks of 4 friends who decided to try something new and “out of the box” to get their friend in need to Jesus. Here is that story from Luke Chapter 5:

“Some men arrived carrying a paraplegic on a stretcher. They were looking for a way to get into the house and set him before Jesus. When they couldn’t find a way in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof, removed some tiles, and let him down in the middle of everyone, right in front of Jesus. Impressed by their bold belief, he said, ‘Friend, I forgive your sins.’” (Luke 5:18-20 MSG)



All of us have friends and family members in need of Jesus. What “**new thing**” can we do to help them find Jesus? Though you might not go through a roof to bring a friend to Jesus, He may be calling you to try something new in order to help them find Him.

Recently I heard of a small group in a San Diego church where doing “something different” meant buying season tickets to see professional football games. Besides buying their own tickets, the couples bought *one extra ticket for someone who didn’t know Jesus*. That group brought 13 couples to Christ through that experience.

Maybe now would be a great time to try something like this as Viking tickets may be easier to get.

I liked the idea this small group tried, as it had a purpose in reaching people for Christ and yet at the same time, enabled them to have fun and build relationships with one another in the church.



Psalm 98:1 says: *“Sing a new song to the LORD, for he has done wonderful deeds.”* God has created us to create new things, sing new songs. God’s word says that God created us “in his image.” What “**new thing**” will you and I do this New Year to transform our life and the lives of those around us? What difference will we make? I pray that we seek and discover that “**new thing**” that God would have us do this New Year and ultimately we will reach many more people for Jesus and see lives changed by Him forever.

God’s richest blessings to all of you this Christmas and New Year of 2012!

Pastor Glenn

PS. I would love to meet potential New Singers and New Band members. Please contact me if interested for this upcoming New Year! Phone 345-4011 or Email: pastorglenn@bethelmankato.com



Youth Group News

Mystery Meal & Unwanted Christmas Gift Exchange

Don't miss the chance to perfectly guess food items and utensils in a way that would make your mother proud. You will be given a list of names and you will have to guess what the food or utensil is and that is what you will be having for dinner. Along with the utensil you chose. Sometimes they don't go together.

Along with dinner we will doing a gift exchange. Bring your unwanted Christmas gifts or a gift around \$5 value to exchange. Make sure to fully wrap your gift so no one can peek before Santa shows up!



Mystery Meal



January Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>	
1/1	New Year's Day Service	11 am	
1/4	Senior High-iMPLODE! Junior High-Xplode! Mystery Meal & Unwanted Gift Exchange	6-8 pm	<i>"Bring any unwanted Christmas gifts to the youth gift exchange!"</i>
1/11	Senior High-Xplode! Mystery Meal & Unwanted Gift Exchange Junior High-iMPLODE!	6-8 pm	
1/18	Youth Worship Nite	6-8 pm	
1/25	Senior High-iMPLODE! Junior High-Xplode! Service Project	6-8 pm	





Children's Ministry

Londa Krueger is our Nursery Coordinator. If you are interested in helping out just call her at (507) 385-1374.

Nursery



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Infants</u>	<u>Preschool</u>
1/1	11:00	Rich & Carissa Delestre	Jerry & Gretchen Bohl & Sam Mansfield
1/8	8:30	Bryce & Jacki Anderson	Carolyn Baker & Amber Lundsten Sunday School Jody Bryant & Family
	9:45	Ben & Jenna Ryan	
	11:00	Scott & Angie Hoffman & Evelynne Larson	
1/15	8:30	Mike & Kari Hennager & Abby Cherney	Melanie Burton & Megan Cherney
	9:45	Carol Edwards & Coralyn Musser	Sunday School
	11:00	Chad & Brooke Riley	Caryl Zernechel, Jennfier Neufeld & Ally Kroehler
1/22	8:30	Dawn & Natalie White	Gwen Case & Boys Sunday School
	9:45	Candace Kolander & Monica West	
	11:00	Shawn & Gwen Berry	
1/29	8:30	Philip & Abby Bailey	Melissa Alexander & Boys & Lauren Daly Sunday School Chris & Carma Carpenter
	9:45	Janet Johnson & Samri Davis	
	11:00	Beth Claussen & Carole Anderson	

"Awana is resuming on Wednesday, January 4th with Regular Club Night."



Meets from 6:00-7:45 pm every Wednesday night.

For 4 year olds to 6th grade.



January Schedule

- 1/4 Regular Club Night
- 1/11 When I Grow Up Night
- 1/18 Regular Club Night
- 1/25 8th Annual Talent Night





Missionaries of the Month - Bob and Barb Bartz

Bob and Barb were members of First Baptist Church (BGC) in Fergus Falls, MN, when they were led by God into full-time ministry.

They spent 17 years with Far East Broadcasting in the Philippines. Now they have been in Pretoria, South Africa, for 5 years. Bob is the broadcast director for Africa with FEBA Radio, FEBC's sister organization.

Bob travels extensively throughout southern Africa, providing technical support for many radio stations which reach out to people with the good news of Jesus Christ. As you can imagine, this presents many challenges in working with different cultures, personalities, governments, and equipment. Over the 5 years he has been in Africa, Bob has shifted his emphasis from direct project management to mentoring local leaders. Therefore, he focuses on building relationships, training and equipping local leaders to use the tool of radio effectively.

Barb continues in her voluntary role 3 days a week in the FEBA Radio South Africa office in Pretoria. She assists the office staff with correspondence, financial details, and with English publications sent out to some financial supporters.

The Bartzes' children, Nathan and Emily, are in the U.S. Nathan is in grad school in Minot, ND, and Emily is in grad school at NDSU in Fargo, ND (taking course work and teaching 2 English composition classes). They will be in South Africa for Christmas with Bob and Barb.

(By the way, this is summer in South Africa. They definitely do not have a "white Christmas"! Winter there is from May to September.)

Here is a recent note from Bob and Barb to our church:

"As we once again celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we want to thank you so much for your faithful support of our ministry with FEBC/FEBA Radio. Your gifts make an eternal difference in the lives of our radio listeners in Africa. Wishing you a Joyful Christmas and a new year filled with God's peace!"

Some prayer requests for the Bartzes:

- *Pray for safe travel, good relationships and good health and energy for Bob as he travels throughout southern Africa.
- *Praise God that Barb's health has been stable through this past year. Pray for this to continue, and for her safety as Bob travels.
- *Pray also for Barb as she leads a weekly Bible study in Isaiah beginning in January.
- *Pray for Nathan and Emily as they are in the U.S. in grad school.



*Pray for the ministry of FEBA Radio throughout Africa, that many would listen and come to know Christ through it.

MISSIONARY VISIT

Steve and Nopaluck Cable will be with us at Bethel Feb.11-15.

Please put it on your calendars and look forward to more information!



From the Leadership Board

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is always good to come into a new year. In a new year we have fresh resolve and look forward with hope for new growth. We know that God will not be taken by surprise and He already knows our path. A new year is also a good time to make new commitments. I encourage you to make a commitment to a deeper walk with Christ, and to this body of believers.

The Leadership board, along with the finance team, has begun planning a proposed budget for the new year. As you may guess, the budget will be conservative. We hope that attendance and giving will increase, and we are planning a list of non-budgeted ministry projects that could be implemented as funds become available.

At our December meeting, we approved Russ and Mona Hauer as new members, pending baptism. Welcome them and thank them for their commitment to become members.

If you are interested in becoming a member please contact Pastor Dave, or one of the members of the Leadership board. Requirements for membership are: a) Confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; b) Baptism by immersion; c) Displaying evidence of a desire to live a consistent Christian life; and d) Meet with the membership committee, and be approved by the Leadership board upon a recommendation from the membership committee.

Please pray about your part in Bethel's future. We are looking for persons willing to serve as ministry directors, and ministry team members in areas of children's ministry, and various areas of adult ministry. There are vacancies on the Leadership board as well as other boards and director positions. We are looking forward to our annual business meeting on January 29 when a ballot will be presented. Pray for wise and spirit-led leadership for Bethel.

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21

You brother,

Mark Lindahl
on behalf of the Leadership Board



Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year

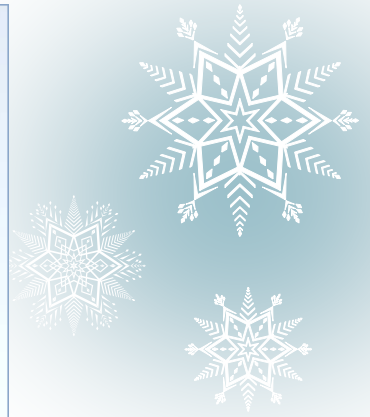
Go The Distance

Please continue to pray for “Go The Distance” that people would see the need and would give to this over and above their general giving. We are continuing to look at various ways to market “Go The Distance” so that everyone fully understands the need that we have to keep the budgets separated. We are working on an agenda that will help people understand that the mission of Bethel is to reach others for Christ, not just pay for a building. The

building is only the means to help us accomplish our mission.

The “Go The Distance” team needs your prayers as we move forward working on ways to accomplish our goals and therefore accomplish the mission of the church. Stay tuned.

Go The Distance Team



Praise & Prayer

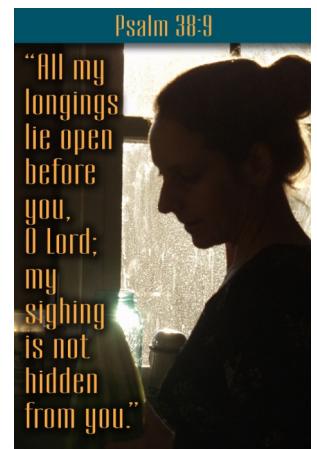
There is a prayer group that meets on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. and also on Saturdays at noon to pray for our attendees, their families & friends, and those in our community. If you would like to be part of this group, contact Suanne Banfield at (507) 388-4432 or banfield@hickorytech.net or just come and meets us at church on Wednesday and/or Saturday.



- ◆ Praise the gift of Jesus!
- ◆ Pray for **Eric Peter's sister, Angela**, who is going through cancer treatments
- ◆ Pray for **Jim Moore** and his battle with cancer. He is home & in hospice care
- ◆ Pray for **Amber Rick's grandfather** who was diagnosed with lung cancer
- ◆ Pray for **Keven & Terry Kroehler's nephew, Luke**, who has suffered a traumatic head injury and is in the hospital
- ◆ Pray for **our missionaries of the month: Bob & Barb Bartz**
- ◆ Pray for **God's leading and blessing** in our days of growth & change
- ◆ Pray that **Bethel** will be a church that is culturally relevant & a transforming power in our community
- ◆ Pray that we will **see people coming to faith** in Jesus at Bethel on a regular basis
- ◆ Pray that **we all reach out** to others & plant seeds of hope in Jesus
- ◆ Pray for **sister churches in Votlivka & Tenovka, Ukraine & Cadunan, Philippines**

Family & Friends Serving Overseas

- ◆ **Amanda Larsen**-granddaughter of Mike & Alice Jensen
- ◆ **Ryan Marti**-brother of Kris Edwards
- ◆ Pray for **our troops** around the world



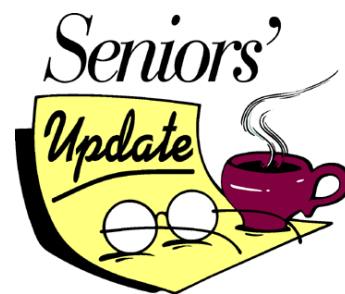


Senior Adults Ministry

Men's Coffee & Bible Study - Mondays at 9:00 a.m.

Senior Adult Lunch - Wednesday, January 18 at noon.

Senior Adult Game Day - Saturday, January 28 at 12:30-3:30 p.m.



Earn An Extra \$150-\$200 PER MONTH TAX-FREE.

Become a Senior Companion Volunteer in the Mankato/Amboy area by making friendly visits to older adults in need. Senior Companions must be 55 years of age or older; service of 15 hours or more a week earns a small hourly tax- free stipend, plus receive travel reimbursement. For more information, contact Gail at 507.337.0382 or 507.530.2295

“Mark your calendar for the Bethel Annual Meeting-Sunday, January 29th at 6:00 p.m.”

Bethel Annual Meeting

All of Bethel's family is encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting on **January 29th at 6:00 p.m.** (You don't have to be a member, only to vote.) This is a chance to hear from the staff on what has happened

at Bethel over the past year and to hear goals for the new year. We also will be voting on new members to the Leadership Board and on the 2012 budget. The 2011 Annual Report will be available

for you to take home and peruse at your leisure. We hope to see you there!



ANNUAL MEETING



MIBC Family Gathering

“Helping Do It Better” is the theme of this year's MIBC Family Gathering. Come and join the Minnesota Iowa Baptist Conference staff and find out what they have to offer you and Bethel. It

will take place on **Monday, January 16, 2012** at Grandview Baptist, Estherville, IA at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in attending please **RSVP by Monday, January 9th** at the

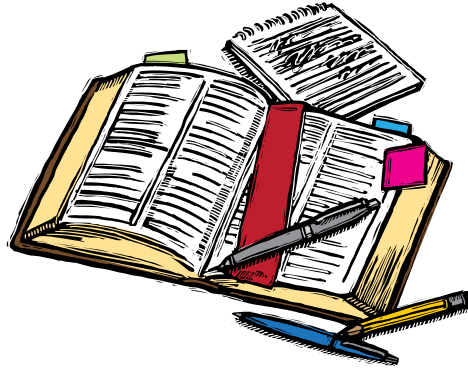
church office or by calling 712-362-4502 or gbcesterville@pngusa.net There is not cost but a free-will offering will be taken.

Discovery Class

Bethel's Discovery Class is scheduled for **Saturday, January 28 at 9:00 a.m.**

To register call the church office or go to our website:
bethelmankato.com

This is chance to learn what Bethel is all about; what we believe in, how to become a member, etc.



Cancellation Policy

Just a reminder to all that in case of bad weather on how to find out if church services have been cancelled.

Sunday Morning Services:

The information will be available by 7:00 a.m. on Sunday morning through the following channels:

Website: www.bethelmankato.com

Radio stations: KTOE 1420 AM KJLY 107.1 FM

Television: KEYC Channel 12 in Mankato

Church answering machine: 507-345-4011

Church Activities During the Week:

Youth or children's activities will be cancelled if public schools are cancelled. So listen and/or watch for school closings. Other church activities and ministries will be made via the website, e-mail and/or phone messages to participants whenever possible.



"Please make a note on how to find out if services have been cancelled due to bad weather."



Support Groups



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI-Mankato offers the Connection Support Group every Thursday at 6:30-8:00 p.m. This is for anyone who lives with a mental illness.

month at 6:30 p.m. Both groups meet here at Bethel.

For more information on mental illness go to:

www.namihelps.org

There is also a support group for family members. It meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the



“There is a lot of support to be found at Bethel. NAMI & DivorceCare are two areas that reach out to people who are in need & hurting.”



Do you know someone who is hurting due to marital separation and/or divorce? It is very likely that they would be greatly blessed by some sound Biblical teaching and some caring support and encouragement from others who have also suffered loss. Please let them know. They can check out our website and/or give the office a call if they want more information about DivorceCare.

We will start meeting again on January 17th. We will meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. You can start at any time. To register contact the church office or go to our website:

www.bethelmankato.com



Encourage one another and build up each other...

1 Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV



Bethel Baptist Church

1250 Monks Ave.
Mankato, MN 56001
(Across from All Seasons
Arena)

Phone: 507-345-4011
E-mail: office@bethelmankato.com
Website: www.bethelmankato.com

Transformed by the love
of Jesus Christ.

Senior Pastor: Dr. David J. Banfield
Pastor of Student Ministries: Harrison Musser
Pastor of Worship Ministries: Rev. Glenn Winch

Sunday Worship Services

Family 8:30 AM

Traditional 9:45 AM

Contemporary 11:00 AM

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Nursery is Available During All Services



BETHEL IS COMMITTED TO:

Connecting people to God and others

Equipping people to serve God and others

Engaging people in service for God and others

Pastor Dave's Corner-Continued

where we are none of us have arrived. We can all take a next step closer to God.

Let us hold onto the hope we have in Christ. Hope plays such an important role in our sense of well-being. If we lose hope we lose our vitality. The hope we have in Christ is eternal. He came to this earth to save us from sin and to reconcile us to God. In Him we can face a Holy God with confidence. **Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,** [Romans 8:1 (NIV)]. Fear has been replaced by an overwhelm-

ing sense of God's love.

Let us spur one another on to love and good deeds. We have been called to be light in a dark world. We can do this alone and make some difference, or we can do this together, combining our lights for maximum impact. We all need a little challenge from time to time to get in the game. We all do a better job when we pull together.

Let us keep meeting together. Isolation is one of Satan's prime weapons against us. If he can keep us apart he can drain our spirits and make us ineffective. By gathering

together for times of corporate worship we can draw strength from one another. We can inspire one another to stand firm in our faith.

Let us encourage one another. It is easy to find fault with one another. That comes naturally from our fallen nature. It takes intentional effort to genuinely encourage and support one another. The benefits are enormous. Our whole demeanor is transformed when we are in an encouraging environment. We can do that for one another.

The tagline for Buzz Lightyear from Toy Story



is "To infinity and beyond." Let's make 2012 a great year for the Kingdom of God at Bethel and beyond.

If you haven't already done it, check out my blog at daves-randomramblings.blogspot.com

Let me know what you think.